

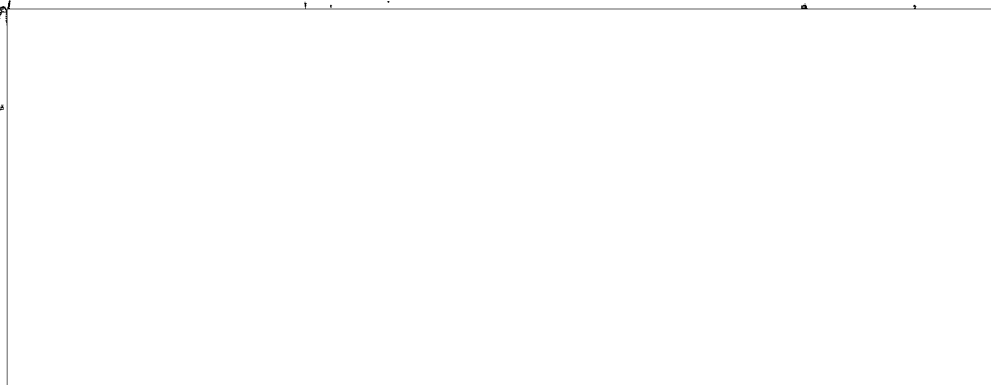
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5 PagesNPIC/R-124/63  
July 1963S-9414  
PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORTPUNCHED  
VERIFIEDUNIDENTIFIED GRID PATTERN  
NEAR TI-HUA (URUMCHI), CHINA

CIA

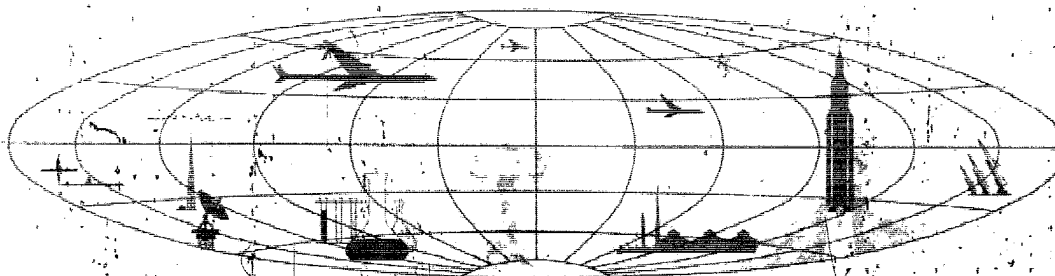


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## UNIDENTIFIED GRID PATTERN NEAR TI-HUA (URUMCHI), CHINA

An unidentified grid pattern of earth scraping (44-20N 87-30E) located approximately 35 nautical miles (nm) north of Ti-hua (Urumchi), Sinkiang, China, was observed for the first time on KEYHOLE photography of September 1961 (Figure 1). It is located in the center of a level, uncultivated area, between the beds of two meandering intermittent streams (Figure 2). Patches of irrigated farmland and several areas being reclaimed for agriculture are located on the sides of the area.

The pattern of earth scraping is roughly square in shape (3,300 by 3,300 feet, or approximately 250 acres) with an adjoining rectangle (3,300 by 1,500 feet) being enclosed on the west side (Figure 3). Dark lines are evident throughout the scraped square and give a first impression of concentric squares. Closer examination, however, reveals a pattern of long rectangular strips of scraping separated from one another by dark lines which are probably the remaining vegetation. The strips, although not uniform in size, appeared to have been cleared concentrically, progressing inwardly from the perimeter.



FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF UNIDENTIFIED GRID PATTERN NEAR TI-HUA, CHINA.

A group of shorter, parallel strips and other shapes of scraping adjoins the square pattern on the east.

Along the perimeter of the square, particularly at or near the corners, are several nodes or centers of activity, as evidenced by converging tracks and earth disturbances. Numerous nodes of similar activity and an extensive area of tracks are found to the south of the patterns; several other centers of activity are located to the north. Those on the south are arranged in three parallel rows at somewhat regular intervals. Irregular strips of scraping or clearing are associated with and partially obscure the center row. The centers of activity to the north of the square are generally arranged in the same line or pattern at about the same intervals. All of the rows, as well as two of the sides of the square, trend in an east/west direction, perpendicular to the direction of drainage.

Seven buildings are discernible at scattered locations in the vicinity of the patterns; other buildings may be present but cannot be discerned on available photography. No evidence of security measures is visible. Numerous roads and trails lead to adjacent irrigated agricultural land.

Continuing activity in the area is evidenced by changes observed since the square pattern was first seen in September 1961. KEYHOLE photography of May 1962 and July 1962 revealed changes in the square pattern indicating that new work had been done and that several new centers of activity had been added. The entire square was worked without regard to the initial scraping by strips. Work started at the perimeter and progressed inwardly, as evidenced by the typical X-shaped, turn mark pattern made by the working implement. The initial strip pattern of plowing or

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FIGURE 2. AREA OF UNIDENTIFIED GRID PATTERN (SEPTEMBER 1961).

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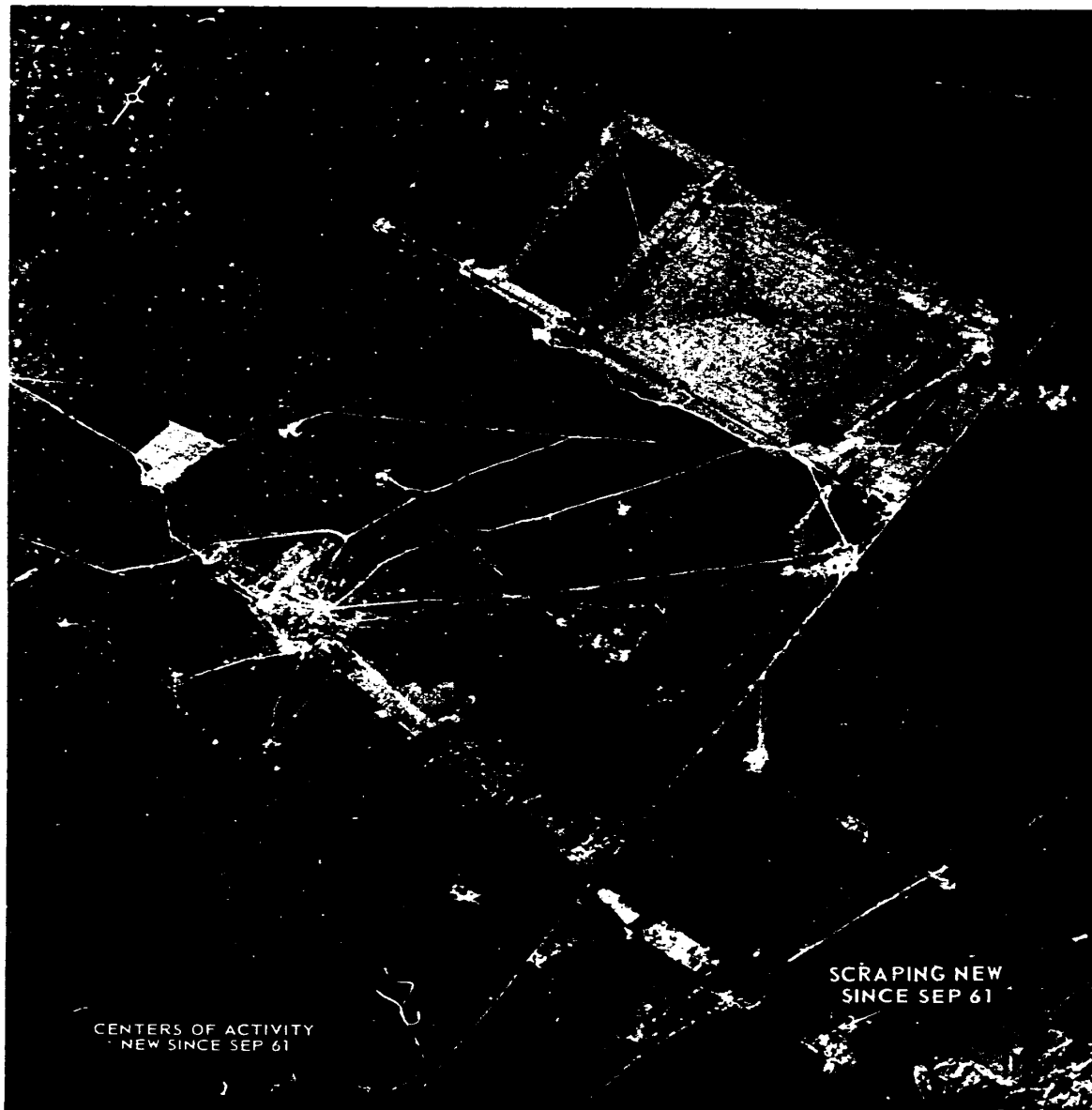


FIGURE 3. DETAIL OF UNIDENTIFIED GRID PATTERN (JULY 1962).

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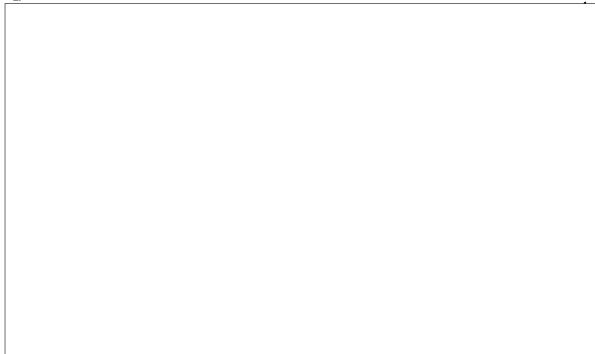
scraping observed on the 1961 photography, however, was still evident. This would indicate that the square probably had been recently mowed or cultivated shallowly, rather than plowed or scraped, and that the darker interior lines do not represent a sharp break in relief, such as a ditch,

because they offered no impediment to the machinery.

Other changes observed in the period of September 1961 to July 1962 include seven new sites of activity and a new area of scraping south of the square pattern (Figure 2).

**CONCLUSIONS**

The nature of the activity at the grid patterns near Ti-hua cannot be identified at this time. However, they do not appear to be associated with biological/chemical warfare testing activity. Evidences for this conclusion are: security



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**REFERENCES**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Mission	Date	Pass	Camera	Frames	Classification
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**MAPS OR CHARTS**

ACIC. WAC 0243, Feb 54, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0243-23A, 1st ed, Apr 60, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

**REQUIREMENT**

CIA. OSI/R-212/62

**NPIC PROJECT**

JN-239/62

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